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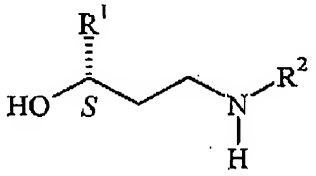
Amendments To The Claims

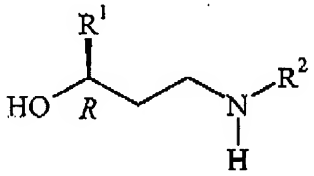
This Listing Of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of an salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoalcohol of formula:



Ia,

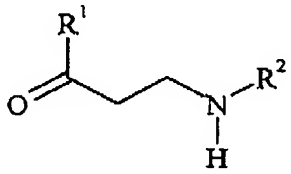


Ib,

and/or

wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of 2-thienyl, 2-furanyl, phenyl, 2-thienyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, 2-furanyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and phenyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4}-alkyl, phenyl, C_{1-4}-alkyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and phenyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy,

comprising asymmetrically hydrogenating a salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoketone of formula:

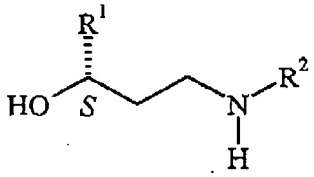


II,

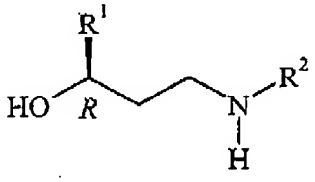
wherein R^1 and R^2 are as defined above,

in the presence of a catalytic amount of a catalyst comprising a transition metal complex of a diphosphine ligand.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A process comprising preparing a salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoalcohol of formula:



Ia,

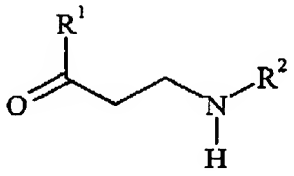


Ib,

and/or

wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of 2-thienyl, 2-furanyl, phenyl, 2-thienyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, 2-furanyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and phenyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4}-alkyl, phenyl, C_{1-4}-alkyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and phenyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy,

by asymmetrically hydrogenating a salt of a carboxylic acid, wherein the carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of substituted ~~alkanoic~~ C_{1-18}-alkanoic acids, substituted monocyclic aromatic acids and substituted bicyclic acids, with an aminoketone of formula:



II,

wherein R^1 and R^2 are as defined above,

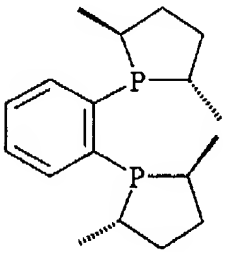
in the presence of a catalytic amount of a catalyst comprising a transition metal complex of a diphosphine ligand[[.]], the carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted C_{1-18}-alkanoic acids and optionally substituted mono- and bicyclic aromatic acids.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 2, wherein R^1 is 2-thienyl, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and R^2 is methyl or ethyl.

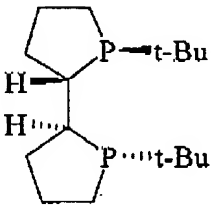
Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 3, wherein the compound of formula II is selected from the group consisting of (*S*)-(−)-3-*N*-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanol, (*S*)-(−)-3-*N*-methyl-amino-1-(3-chloro-2-thienyl)-1-propanol, (*R*)-(+)-3-*N*-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanol and (*R*)-(+)-3-*N*-methylamino-1-(3-chloro-2-thienyl)-1-propanol.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 4, wherein the transition metal is selected from the group consisting of rhodium, ruthenium or iridium.

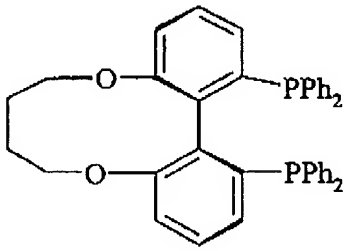
Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 7, wherein the diphosphine ligand is selected from the group consisting of:



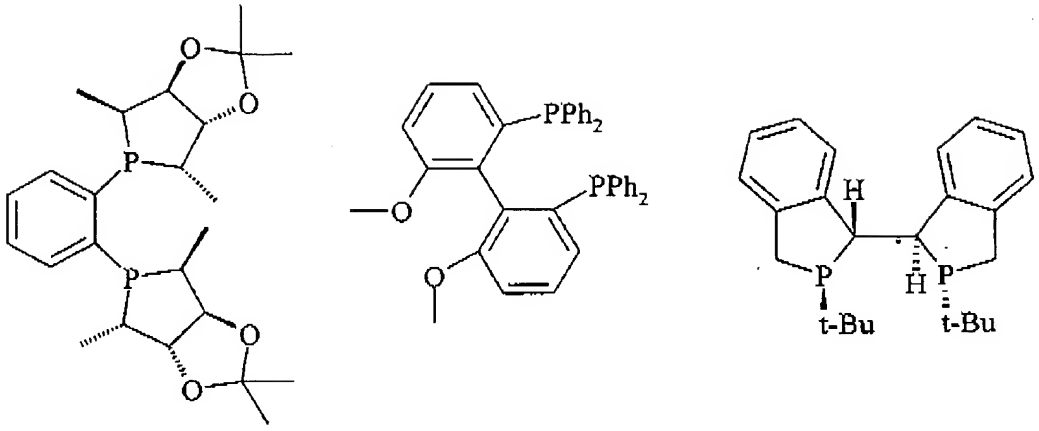
(*S,S*)-"Me-DuPhos",



(*R,R,S,S*)-"TangPhos",



(*S*)-"C4-TunePhos",



(*S,S,S,S*)-"Me-KetalPhos", (*S*) and (*R*)-"MeO-BiPhep", and "(R_P,R_P,S_C,S_C)-DuanPhos".

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 6, wherein the compound of formulae Ia and/or Ib is obtained from it's corresponding salt with a carboxylic acid by hydrolysis in the presence of an alkali metal hydroxide or an alkaline earth hydroxide.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Cancelled).

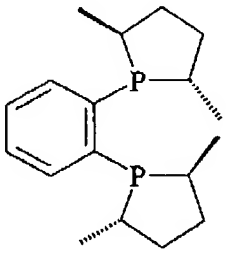
Claim10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the transitional metal complex of a diphosphine ligand is a transitional metal complex of an aryldiphosphine ligand or a biaryldiphosphine ligand.

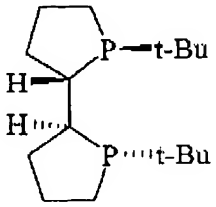
Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein R^1 is 2-thienyl, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and R^2 is methyl or ethyl.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the transition metal is rhodium.

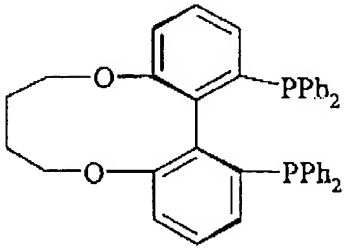
Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the diphosphine ligand is selected from the group consisting of:



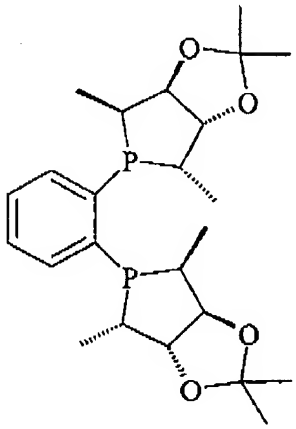
(*S,S*)-"Me-DuPhos",



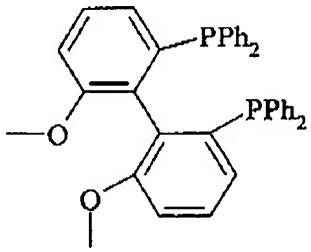
(*R,R,S,S*)-"TangPhos",



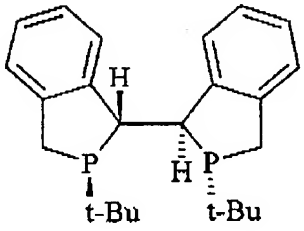
(*S*)-"C4-TunePhos",



(*S,S,S,S*)-"Me-KetalPhos",

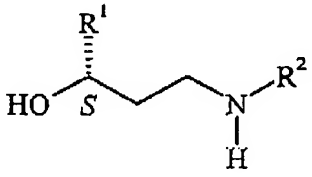


(*S*) and (*R*)-"MeO-BiPhep",

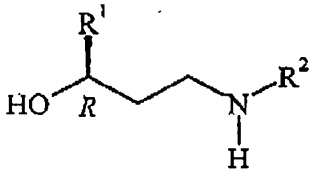


and "(R_P,R_P,S_C,S_C)-DuanPhos".

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of an salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoalcohol of formula:



Ia,



Ib,

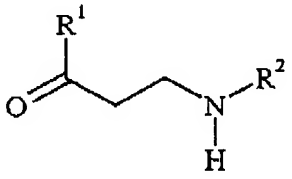
and/or

wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of 2-thienyl, 2-furanyl, phenyl, 2-thienyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, 2-furanyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one

C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and phenyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4}-alkyl, phenyl, C_{1-4}-alkyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and phenyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy,

comprising:

(i) asymmetrically hydrogenating a salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoketone of formula:



II,

wherein R^1 and R^2 are as defined above,

in the presence of a catalytic amount of a catalyst comprising a transition metal complex of a diphosphine ligand; and

(ii) obtaining a compound of formulae Ia and/or Ib from its corresponding salt with a carboxylic acid by hydrolysis of said corresponding salt in the presence of an alkali metal hydroxide or an alkaline earth hydroxide.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 2, wherein the substituted C_{1-18}-alkanoic acid is substituted with at least one C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}-alkoxy, aryl, amino, protected carbonyl, halogen, hydroxyl or further carboxylic.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 2, wherein the substituted monocyclic aromatic acid is substituted with at least one member selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{1-6}-alkoxy, halogen and hydroxyl.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 2, wherein the substituted bicyclic aromatic acid is substituted with at least one member selected from the group

consisting of C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{1-6}-alkoxy, halogen and hydroxyl.

Claim 19 (Cancelled).

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid is a monocarboxylic acid.